offices to help in bringing about a political solution to the Sri Lankan crisis. A high level delegation led by the Minister of State for Personnel and Administrative Reforms, Shri P. Chidambaram, visited Sri Lanka from 29th April to May 4th, 1986 for discussion with the Sri Lanka Government. Some detailed and specific formulations emerged from these discussions. Since these were incomplete, the Sri Lankan Government was asked to provide clarifications on some alternative formulations. These alternative formulations and clarifications were received in mid-June and it was felt by the Government that the package of proposals could be transmitted to the Tamil groups for their careful consideration. They were accordingly handed over to representatives of the Sri Lankan Tamil groups at the end of June. A delegation of the TULF is currently in Colombo for discussions with the Sri Lankan Government on these proposals. Discussions are continuing their outcome it awaited.

Programme for credit facilities for the urban poor

*65. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI. Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have finalised the guidelines for the implementation of the programme of extending credit facilities to the urban poor;

(b) if so, what is the nature and scope of these guidelines; and

(c) what is the estimated number of persons likely to be benefited thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) The Reserve Bank of India has recently finalised the guidelines for the Self-Employment Programme for Urban Poor and the preparatory work for launching the scheme is under way. It is proposed to provide financial assistance through banks to the residents of metropolitan, urban and semi-urban areas for undertaking ventures like rickshaw-pulling carpentary, vegetable/fruit vending, blacksmithy, tailoring, cycle repair shop shoe-shining, welding etc. The beneficiaries would also be provided subsidy from the Central Government so that repayment burden on them is reduced. It is too early to estimate the number of people that would be actually assisted under the scheme.

IENS reaction to increase in interim relief for journalists

*67. SHRI P. N. SUKUL:
SHRI CHITTA BASU:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the I.E.N.S. has termed Governments' Notification increasing quantum of interim relief as 'arbitary' and observed closure on the 1st July, 1986 as a protest against the Notification; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) While announcing enhanced interim relief the Government has taken all the relevant factors into consideration.

Smuggling of synthetic textiles

*68. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) what is the quantity of smuggled synthetic textiles seized in the country during the last three years;

(b) whether Government are aware of the fact that textile industry at their conference in Surat some months back estimated smuggling of synthetic textiles into the country to the tune of 2000 million metres costing about Rs. 3000 crores per annum.

(c) whether it is a fact that polyester filament yarn, nylon filament yarn, polyester saple fibre, polyester blended yarn and other inputs are heavily taxed;

(d) what is the excise duty and other taxes on finished synthetic products and

what are the prices of PEY, NFY, PSY, DMT and TPA in India and abroad; and

(e) whether Government are aware of the fact that high prices of Indian synthetics is attracting large scale smuggling of synthetic textiles; if so, what measures are contemplated by Government to bring down the prices of local synthetic textiles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Statistics relating to the quantity of synthetic textiles seized in the country is not separately maintained by the Customs Department. However, the market value of smuggled synthetic fabrics seized in the country during the last three years is furnished below:—

(*Rs in crores*).

Year	Value of synthetic fabrics seized
1983	15·00
1984	18·39
1985	16·48

(b) Attention of the Government was drawn to the 46th All India and the Third International Textile Conference held at Surat on 1st December, 1985 where certain references were made to some estimates relating to smuggling of synthetic textiles, But smuggling is a clandestine activity and therefore no reliable estimate of the quantity of synthetic textiles smuggled into the country is feasible. However, synthetic fabrics continue to be an item sensitive to smuggling into the country.

(c) and (d) Excise duty rates on various synthetic fibres and yarn are as indicated below:—

(*Rs per Kg.*)

Sl. No.	Synthetic fibres/yarn	Rate of Excise duty
1	Polyester filament yarn	83·75
2	Nylon filament yarn	
	(a) 750 deniers and below	70
	(b) Above 750 deniers	8·13
3	Polyester staple fibre	25
4	Polyester blended yarn (Polyester predominates)	
	(a) Polyester cotton (Polyester content less than 70%)	3·41
	(b) Polyester-Viscose (Polyester content less than 70%)	6.82
	(c) Polyester blended yarn (where polyester content is above 70%)	30

There is no basic excise duty on man-made fabrics. However, there is an additional excise duty in lieu of sales tax which varies from 1 to 10 per cent *ad valorem* plus Rs. 4.50 per sq. metre, depending upon the composition and value of the fabrics.

The price of various synthetic textile inputs in India and abroad are furnished below:—

S. No.	Product	Indigenous price range	C.I.F. Value
1	Polyester filament yarn	Rs. 154 per Kg. to Rs. 173 per Kg. depending upon the denierage (April 1986)	2.65 to S3.60 per Kg. depending upon denierage and country of origin.
2	Nylon filament yarn	Rs. 135 per Kg. to Rs. 183.88 per Kg. depending upon the denierage (April. 1986)	2.85 per Kg. to S2.90 Kg. depending upon denierage and country of origin.
3	Polyester blended yarn	Rs. 75 per Kg. to Rs. 90 per Kg. depending upon the composition (May-1986)	N.A. (Imports neg.)
4	D.M.T.	Rs. 21,500 to Rs. 22,500 per tonne.	About 600 US per tonne.
5	T.P.A.	No indigenous production	About 650 US per tonne

(1 US $—Rs. 12.38 in June, 1986)

(e) The higher prices of synthetic fabrics in India are due to various factors such as lack of economy of scale, higher energy cost, etc. The Textile Policy 1985 envisages increased production of good quality fabric at reasonable prices. To achieve this objective, the duty on man-made fabrics/yarn are to be reduced progressively, ensuring at the same time that the benefit is passed on the consumers in the form of lower prices. On the basis of the above policy, substantial excise concessions were given to polyester staple fibre, polyester cotton blended yarn, polyester viscose, blended yarn, polyester viscose blended fabrics and acrylic fibre in August, 1985. In addition to the above, supply of polyester fibre free of excise/countervailing duty is extened of the manufacture of low priced fabric manufactured by the National Textile Corporation and to the Handloom Sector.

Further concessions to the textile industry would depend on the response of the industry, revenue implications, profitability of the industry, etc.

Modernisation of sick textile mills

*69. SHRI MIRZA IRSHADBAIG:
SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press report which appeared in the Economic Times of the 18th June, 1986 to the effect that Government have created a Rs. 100 crore fund for the sick textile mills for their modernisation and better functioning;

(b) whether it has also been reported that NTC has decided to transfer six of its mills to its subsidiaries; and

(c) how far it will affect the workers and what other measures have been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

The ownership of the six textile undertakings of Swadeshi Cotton Mills Companies, Kanpur was vested in the Central Government by an Ordinance, dated 19th April, 1986 (since replaced by an Act).

Under the provisions of the said Act, NTC has transferred all the six mills to subsidiary corporations, keeping in view geographical and operational parametres.

The provisions of Section 12 of the Act The Swadeshi Cotton Mills Company Limited (Acquisition and Transfer) Act, 1986, will continue to apply to the workers of the textile undertakings so transferred to the subsidiary corporations.

Payment of D.A to Central Government Employees

*70. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that one instalment of D.A. for payment to the Central Government employees has become due with effect from the 1st of June, 1986; and

(b) if so, by when orders in this respect are likely to be issued by the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) and (b) Under the existing scheme of grant of Dearness Allowance one instalment of D.A. has become due for consideration w.e.f. 1st June, 1986. However, the Fourth Pay Commission has made certain recommendations regarding the payment of Dearness Allowance. These are under examination. The instalments due to Central Government servants will be considered in the light of the decision to be taken on the Pay Commission's recommendations.

Production of Textiles

*71. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total value of textiles produced in the country in 1985-86: